

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00379 211232Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 211145Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 379

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, QA, EG, SA, TC, KU
SUBJECT: FUNDING OF F-5S FOR EGYPT

REF: STATE 068709

1. IF SAUDI ARABIA ASKS QATAR TO HELP PAY FOR THE EGYPTIAN F-5 PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE THE CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD THAT QATAR WILL AGREE. THIS IS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HERE IS RESOLVED TO SPEND LESS MONEY AND COOL OFF THE ECONOMY.

2. A FAVORABLE GOQ DECISION WOULD BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING: (A) FOR HIGH POLITICAL REASONS QATAR IS COMFORTABLE GOING ALONG WITH SAUDI ARABIAN LEADS; (B) AMIR KHALIFA REGARDS PRESIDENT SADAT AS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND WHOSE POLITICAL SURVIVAL IS LINKED IN THE AMIR'S MIND WITH QATAR'S OWN POLITICAL VIABILITY; AND (C) KHALIFA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED AT THIS TIME IN DOING EVERYTHING HE REASONABLY CAN TO SUPPORT SADAT BECAUSE OF HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE, THE SUCCESS OF WHICH KHALIFA REGARDS AS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

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KILLGORE

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NNN

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